

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the subject matter of original dependent claim 5 which was indicated as being allowable. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1 is allowable.

Claim 1 has also been amended in the preamble thereof to remove recitation of the supplemental reinforcement being formed of "rubber and reinforcing elements", since such recitation is presented later in the body of the claim (new independent claims 16 and 19 have been similarly written).

New independent claim 16 is based upon original claims 1 and 11, the latter having been indicated as directed to allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 16 is allowable, along with new claims 17-19 which depend therefrom.

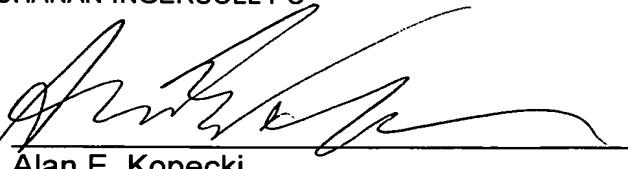
New independent claim 20 constitutes original claims 1 and 13 written in independent form. Since claim 13 was indicated as allowable, it is submitted that claim 20 is allowable along with claim 21 that depends therefrom.

Support for the subject matter of newly added dependent claims 15, 19 and 21 can be found in paragraph no. 0036 of the original specification.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

By:   
Alan E. Kopecki  
Registration No. 25,813

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P.O. Box 1404  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404  
(703) 836-6620